



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 10/689,789 | 10/20/2003 | Brent A. Hill | 42P17630 | 7601 |
| 8791 | 7590 | 04/07/2006 | EXAMINER | |
| BLAKELY SOKOLOFF TAYLOR & ZAFMAN 12400 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD SEVENTH FLOOR LOS ANGELES, CA 90025-1030 | | | | CHUNG TRANS, XUONG MY |
| ART UNIT | | PAPER NUMBER | | |
| | | | | 2833 |

DATE MAILED: 04/07/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

| APPLICATION NO./ CONTROL NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR / PATENT IN REEXAMINATION | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. |
|---------------------------------|-------------|---|---------------------|
|---------------------------------|-------------|---|---------------------|

10/689,789

EXAMINER

X. CHUNG-TRANS

| | |
|----------|-------|
| ART UNIT | PAPER |
|----------|-------|

2833 20060329

DATE MAILED:

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner for Patents

Reply Examiner's Answer

This is in response to the reply brief filed on January 25, 2006.

In the reply brief, applicant alleges that the Examiner incorrectly states that there has been no known related appeal which may have a bearing on the Board's decision in the instant appeal. The examiner would like to point out that applicant's appeal brief filed August 25, 2005 specifically stated "there are no known related appeals and/or interferences" and that applicant is in the better position to state whether a related appeal which may have a bearing on the Board's decision at the time the appeal brief was filed. As to the outcome of the other application (10/404,975) after filing an appeal brief, the examiner would like to point out that the examiner voluntarily reopened prosecution to provide a more concise Office action and to further improve for purposes of appeal. Further, the examiner would like to point out that the instant application is going forward after an appeal conference was conducted and point out that the instant application and the '975 application are independent and distinct one from the other.

Xuong Chung-Trans

P. AUSTIN BRADLEY
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800